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Secret Files Taken Over From Rand

By Peter Braestrup
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Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird yesterday ordered Air Force security men to take custody of all classified documents used by the Rand Corp., the leading private "think tank" engaged in defense research.

Laird's action, announced here while he was en route to Japan, followed what the Defense Secretary called "security compromises" at Rand.

The step also followed the furor over disclosures Monday by Daniel Ellsberg, a former Rand researcher and Pentagon official, that it was he who leaked the Pentagon papers to the press. About two weeks ago Rand was asked to return its two copies of the 47-volume history of U.S. Vietnam policy.

According to Rand and Pentagon sources, Rand researchers will continue to use secret documents in the corporation's Washington and Santa Monica offices. But Air Force personnel will take over the custody and control of secret material from Rand's own security men.

Laird's move, a senior Pentagon official said, was designed to show "scores" of defense contractors using classified documents "that we mean business." Rand, these sources said, is not the only "think tank" whose security procedures are under scrutiny.

However, officials at two other leading research centers — the Institute for Defense Analysis in Arlington, Va., and the Hudson Institute at Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y. — said they had as yet undergone no special Pentagon security investigation. Such checks, they said, occur routinely anyway.

One think tank analyst, a Defense Department veteran, contended that it was harder to prevent leaks at the huge Pentagon than at small research centers, where all visitors are usually checked in and out.

Rand Statement

Later yesterday, Rand is-
dent, Henry Rowen, a former Pentagon official, saying that "we understand and support" Laird's action, "we are confident that our research efforts devoted to the national security will continue to be conducted in an effective manner," Rowen said.

"There can be no excuse, he said, "or proper reason for the violation of trust and confidence by any person who has received a high security clearance from the government."

On June 24, in Los Angeles, Lynda R. Sinay, a friend of Ellsberg, testified that he used her Xerox machine to run off

3,000 pages of documents in late 1969, while Ellsberg was employed at Rand's office in nearby Santa Monica.

Other Developments

Amid the continuing furor over the Pentagon papers, there were these other developments:

- Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) told newsmen he would help Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.), who is also GOP National Committee Chairman, set up an unusual

closed-door session after Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) read aloud to newsmen some of the secret documents in a late-night subcommittee meeting earlier this week.

- State Department spokesman said the department had been approached by several (unnamed) news organizations responding to Secretary of State William P. Rogers' invitation on Thursday to discuss sensitive documents, including the papers, prior to publication. The spokesman, Charles Bray, would give no details.

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